

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A game comprising:

- (a) a substantially flat longitudinal playing surface having two ends;
- (b) a marker, placed at one end of the playing surface;
- (c) a scoring goal, placed at the end of the playing surface opposite the
5 marker, the scoring goal having
 - an outer scoring area located on the playing surface,
 - an inner scoring area located on the playing surface at least
partially within the perimeter of the outer scoring area,
 - a game pole inserted into the playing surface within the area of the
10 outer scoring area, and
 - a ball for placing on top of the game pole; and
- (d) at least two game balls for pitching or bowling at the scoring goal.

2. The game according to claim 1 additionally including a scoreboard.

3. A game comprising:

- (a) a substantially flat longitudinal playing surface having two ends;
- (b) a marker, placed at one end of the playing surface;
- (c) a scoring goal, placed at the end of the playing surface opposite the
20 marker, the scoring goal having
 - at least three outer poles inserted into the playing surface forming
an outer scoring area,
 - at least three inner poles inserted into the playing surface forming
an inner scoring area located within the area of the outer scoring area,
 - 25 a game pole inserted into the playing surface within the area of the
outer scoring area, and

- a ball for placing on top of the game pole; and
- (d) at least two game balls for pitching or rolling at the scoring goal.

4. The game of claim 3, wherein the game balls include,

- 5 (a) a first set of at least two game balls for pitching or rolling at the scoring goal, each ball having a different color; and
- (b) a second set of at least two game balls for pitching or rolling at the scoring goal, each ball having a marking of a different color corresponding to the different colors of the first set of game balls.

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5. The game of claim 3, wherein the scoring goal is comprised of:

- (a) four outer poles inserted into the playing surface forming a square having a center point;
- 15 (b) an outer boundary formed by the four outer poles;
- (c) four inner poles inserted into the playing surface forming an inner square having a center point in common with the outer square and a perimeter smaller than the perimeter of the outer square;
- (d) an inner boundary formed by the four inner poles;
- 20 (e) a game pole inserted into the playing surface at the center point of the outer square and the inner square; and
- (f) a ball for placing on top of the game pole.

6. The game of claim 5 additionally including a line attached to the four outer poles to form the outer boundary and a line attached to the four inner poles to form an inner boundary.

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7. The game of claim 5, wherein each of the inner poles has a color different from the other inner poles.

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8. The game of claim 7, wherein the game balls include,
- (a) a first set of at least two game balls for pitching or rolling at the scoring goal, each ball having a different color; and
 - (b) a second set of at least two game balls for pitching or rolling at the scoring goal, each ball having a marking of a different color corresponding to the different colors of the first set of game balls.
9. The game of claim 8, wherein the first set of game balls includes four balls, each having a different color corresponding to the different colors of the inner poles.
10. The game of claim 9 additionally including a scoreboard.
11. A method of playing a game comprising the steps of:
- (a) selecting a playing field having,
 - (i) a substantially flat longitudinal playing surface having two ends,
 - (ii) a marker, placed at one end of the playing surface,
 - (iii) a scoring goal, placed at the end of the playing surface opposite the marker at a predetermined distance from the marker, the scoring goal having
 - an outer scoring area located on the playing surface,
 - an inner scoring area located on the playing surface at least partially within the perimeter of the outer scoring area,
 - a game pole inserted into the playing surface within the area of the outer scoring area, and
 - an object ball for placing on top of the game pole, and
 - (iv) at least two game balls for pitching or bowling at the scoring goal;
 - (b) selecting the number of points required to win the game;

(c) pitching game balls at the scoring goal, each participant having at least one foot touching the marker and each participant pitching in turn, wherein the order of pitching is determined by the following criteria:

- 5 (i) if the initial pitch, each participant pitches one game ball and the participant with the highest scoring game ball pitches first followed by the participant with the second highest scoring game ball through the participant with the least scoring game ball,
- (ii) if not the initial pitch, the participant with the lowest score pitches first,
- 10 (iii) if not the initial pitch and more than one participant has the same low score, the participant that has most recently attained that low score pitches first, and
- (iv) if not the initial pitch and more than one participant arrived at the same lowest score on the same pitch, the order of the initial pitch is followed;

15 (d) scoring each participant's pitch according to the following criteria:

(i) if a participant's game ball remains in the outer scoring area after all game balls are pitched for a turn, the participant scores one point,

(ii) if a participant's game ball remains in the inner scoring area after all game balls are pitched for a turn, the participant scores three points,

20 (iii) if a participant's game ball initially lands in the outer scoring area or inner scoring area, but is subsequently struck by a subsequent participant's game ball and the initial participant's game ball rests outside the outer scoring area at the conclusion of the turn, the initial participant scores no points,

(iv) if a participant's game ball remains in the outer scoring area or the
25 inner scoring area after all game balls are pitched for a turn and the participant's game ball knocked the object ball off the game pole, the participant scores five points if the object ball rests in the inner scoring area or three points if object ball rests in the outer scoring area plus the participant scores an additional one point if the participant's game ball remains in the outer scoring area,

(v) if a participant's game ball remains in the inner scoring area after all game balls are pitched for a turn and the participant's game ball knocked the object ball off the game pole, the participant automatically wins the game if the object ball rests in the inner scoring area and no other participant is able to knock the object ball or the initial participant's game ball out of the inner scoring area,

(vi) if a participant knocks the object ball off the game pole and the object ball rolls outside the outer scoring area, the participant's score is reduced to the score of the lowest scoring participant at the end of the turn,

(vii) if an initial participant knocks the object ball off the game pole and the object ball rests in the outer scoring area and the initial participant's game ball rests in the outer scoring area, a subsequent participant is awarded the points for this pitch if the subsequent participant's game ball knocks the initial participant's game ball out of the outer scoring area and the subsequent participant's game ball rests in the outer scoring area or the inner scoring area.

(viii) if a subsequent participant's game ball makes contact with a previous participant's game ball such that the previous participant's game ball knocks the object ball off the game pole and the object ball rests in the outer scoring area or the inner scoring area and the previous participant's game ball rests in the outer scoring area or inner scoring area, the previous participant is awarded points according to the criteria of

(i) through (vii) above,

(ix) if a subsequent participant's game ball makes contact with a previous participant's game ball such that the previous participant's game ball knocks the object ball off the game pole and the object ball rests outside the outer scoring area, the previous participant's score is reduced to the score of the lowest scoring participant at the conclusion of the turn; and

(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) until one participant scores at least the predetermined number of points required to win the game.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein if after a turn is completed a participant's score exceeds the predetermined number of points required to win the game, that participant's score is reduced to the participant's score before the turn less the points that were scored by the participant during the turn.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein the number of predetermined points required to win the game is twenty-one points.

14. A method of playing a game comprising the steps of:

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(a) selecting a playing field having,

(i) a substantially flat longitudinal playing surface having two ends,

(ii) a marker, placed at one end of the playing surface,

(iii) a scoring goal, placed at the end of the playing surface opposite the

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marker at a predetermined distance from the marker, the scoring goal having

four outer poles inserted into the playing surface forming an outer square having a center point,

an outer boundary formed by the four outer poles,

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four inner poles inserted into the playing surface forming an inner square having a center point in common with the outer square and a perimeter smaller than the perimeter of the outer square,

an inner boundary formed by the four inner poles,

a game pole inserted into the playing surface at the center point of

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the outer square and the inner square,

an object ball for placing on top of the game pole, and

(iv) a first set of at least two game balls for pitching or bowling at the scoring goal, each ball having a different color, and

(v) a second set of at least two game balls for pitching or rolling at the scoring goal, each ball having a marking of a different color corresponding to the different colors of the first set of game balls;

(b) pitching game balls at the scoring goal, each participant having at least one foot touching the marker and each participant pitching in turn, wherein the order of pitching is determined by the following criteria:

(i) if the initial pitch, each participant pitches one game ball and the participant with the highest scoring game ball pitches first followed by the participant with the second highest scoring game ball through the participant with the least scoring game ball,

(ii) if not the initial pitch, the participant with the lowest score pitches first,

(iii) if not the initial pitch and more than one participant has the same low score, the participant that has most recently attained that low score pitches first, and

(iv) if not the initial pitch and more than one participant arrived at the same lowest score on the same pitch, the order of the initial pitch is followed;

(c) scoring each participant's pitch according to the following criteria:

(i) if a participant's game ball remains in the outer square after all game balls are pitched for a turn, the participant scores one point,

(ii) if a participant's game ball remains in the inner square after all game balls are pitched for a turn, the participant scores three points,

(iii) if a participant's game ball initially lands in the outer square or inner square, but is subsequently struck by a subsequent participant's game ball and the initial participant's game ball rests outside the outer square at the conclusion of the turn, the initial participant scores no points,

(iv) if a participant's game ball remains in the outer square or the inner square after all game balls are pitched for a turn and the participant's game ball knocked the object ball off the game pole, the participant scores five points if the object ball rests in the inner square or three points if object ball rests in the outer square plus the

participant scores an additional one point if the participant's game ball remains in the outer square,

5 (v) if a participant's game ball remains in the inner square after all game balls are pitched for a turn and the participant's game ball knocked the object ball off the game pole, the participant automatically wins the game if the object ball rests in the inner square and no other participant is able to knock the object ball or the initial participant's game ball out of the inner square,

10 (vi) if a participant knocks the object ball off the game pole and the object ball rolls outside the outer square, the participant's score is reduced to the score of the lowest scoring participant at the end of the turn,

(vii) if an initial participant knocks the object ball off the game pole and the object ball rests in the outer square and the initial participant's game ball rests in the outer square, a subsequent participant is awarded the points for this pitch if the subsequent participant's game ball knocks the initial participant's game ball out of the outer square and the subsequent participant's game ball rests in the outer square or the inner square.

15 (viii) if a subsequent participant's game ball makes contact with a previous participant's game ball such that the previous participant's game ball knocks the object ball off the game pole and the object ball rests in the outer square or the inner square and the previous participant's game ball rests in the outer square or inner square, the previous participant is awarded points according to the criteria of (i) through (vii) above,

20 (ix) if a subsequent participant's game ball makes contact with a previous participant's game ball such that the previous participant's game ball knocks the object ball off the game pole and the object ball rests outside the outer square, the previous participant's score is reduced to the score of the lowest scoring participant at the conclusion of the turn, and

25 (x) if after a turn is completed, a participant's score exceeds twenty-one points, that participant's score is reduced to the participant's score before the turn less the points that were scored by the participant during the turn;

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(d) repeating steps (b) and (c) until one participant scores exactly twenty-one points.

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15. The method of claim 14, wherein the scoring goal additionally includes a line attached to the four outer poles to form the outer boundary and a line attached to the four inner poles to form the inner boundary.

10 16. The method of claim 15, wherein each of the inner poles has a color different from the other inner poles.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the playing field additionally includes a scoreboard for keeping score.